



- Use a jigsaw to cut openings for protrusions. (8-12T per inch on the blade.)
- If necessary, use a large file or medium-grit sandpaper to clean cut edges.
- Use utility knife to cut any fibers or strands.

(In the rare event that a strand or fiber protrudes from the board, do not pull it.) If you are using a painted blade, you can remove the paint residue with medium grit sandpaper.

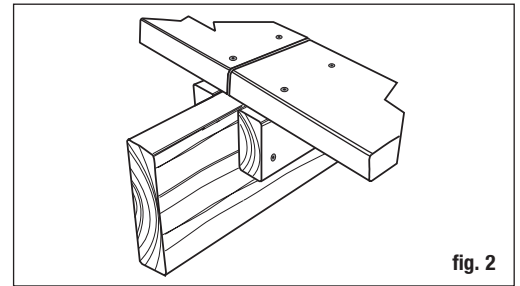
## Fasteners

For a list of recommended and compatible fasteners please visit [www.Deckorators.com/FastenerInfo](http://www.Deckorators.com/FastenerInfo). Recommended fasteners are those which are recommended by the manufacturer of Deckorators Decking. Compatible fasteners are those which have been tested and recommended for use with Deckorators Decking by the fastener manufacturer. The use of a non-recommended fastener will not void the Deckorators Decking Warranty; however if a decking failure is caused by the use of a non-recommended fastener, any corresponding warranty claim will be denied.

For ease of installation, we recommend using 2-1/2" corrosion-resistant, composite wood deck screws. These screws help minimize the common "mushroom" effect that sometimes occurs when using standard fasteners. Always pre-drill a pilot hole and countersink prior to driving screws.

Screws must be driven flush with the Deckorators decking surface. Do not over-tighten. Use two fasteners per deck board at each joist. For any decking where two boards meet end-to-end over a joist, additional blocking must be used for proper board end support (fig. 2). Always pre-drill a pilot hole and countersink when using either composite or wood screws. Be careful not to over-tighten screws near board ends.

Please refer to PFS-TECO RR-0100 for stringer spacing when deck boards are used as stair treads.



Pre-drill and countersink all deck screws, regardless of type and location.

## Color Variation

Like most composites, Deckorators Decking will have color variations from piece to piece. This is due to naturally occurring variations in wood fibers and polymers. Purchasing all required decking material at one time is recommended, as manufacturing runs can produce slightly different colors. Do not install if color variation is not acceptable.

## Preventing Mold and Mildew Growth

Mold and mildew can be a nuisance on any exterior building surface, regardless of the material. If the conditions are right, they will grow on wood, plastic, concrete, metal, and other surfaces. Mold formation is most prevalent in consistently wet, shaded areas. Spores from the natural environment are carried by the wind and commonly land on decks surfaces. It is important to note that the appearance of mold/mildew is a function of nature, not necessarily a deficiency with any of the material on which it grows.

## Cleaning

Periodic washing with soap/mild detergent and water will help remove surface dirt. This will also help prevent the buildup of pollen, debris and spores that can cause and accelerate mold/mildew growth. *Caution: A pressure washer must not be used to "blast" mold/mildew or soils from a deck surface. The abrasive nature of the water stream can potentially cause damage by driving the spores deeper into the material, which may create a more challenging problem to remedy. A pressure washer with a fan-tipped nozzle must only be used to lightly wet or rinse wood or composite deck surfaces.*

There are many deck wash and exterior cleaning products available at retail. It is important to only use a cleaner specifically intended for your application. After selecting a product, be certain to read, understand and follow all instructions supplied by the manufacturer. Some cleaning products and inhibitors may be more effective than others, depending on the environmental conditions your deck is subjected to. Additionally, it is always a good idea to test the cleaner in a small, inconspicuous area prior to applying it to the entire deck ([www.deckorators.com](http://www.deckorators.com)).

*Tips for snow removal: Care should be taken when removing snow from your deck to avoid damaging the deck surface. Use a plastic snow shovel, one without a metal edge. A stiff push broom can work very well and minimizes lifting. Light snow can be cleared using a leaf blower. Do not attempt to break up or scrape ice from the deck surface; use ice melt products when needed. No concerns have been reported using ice melt products labeled "Safe for Pets".*

## Mold Inhibitors

As with deck washes, there are several mold-inhibitor products available from paint stores, hardware stores, online outlets and home centers to help prevent long-term mold/mildew growth. For any product selected, be certain to read, understand and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer. Depending upon the environmental factors affecting your deck, some preventive cleaning products may be more effective than others. It may be necessary to try more than one product. For ongoing preventive maintenance, follow the manufacturer's recommendation.

*Note: Deckorators is not suitable for structural use. It must not be used for primary load-bearing members such as posts, joists, beams, or stringers. The same common-sense precautions should be taken when handling Deckorators as with wood or other building materials. Dust masks and eye protection devices are recommended to avoid possible irritation from sawdust and chips. Gloves will help protect hands. Hands should be washed after construction work.*

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